



(19) Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11) EP 0 820 029 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
19.05.1999 Bulletin 1999/20

(51) Int Cl⁶: G06F 17/60, G06K 19/06

(43) Date of publication A2:
21.01.1998 Bulletin 1998/04

(21) Application number: 97305368.9

(22) Date of filing: 18.07.1997

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC
NL PT SE
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV RO SI

(30) Priority: 18.07.1996 GB 9615057

(71) Applicant: Newman, Paul Bernard David
Okehampton, Devon EX20 3BT (GB)

(72) Inventor: Newman, Paul Bernard David
Okehampton, Devon EX20 3BT (GB)

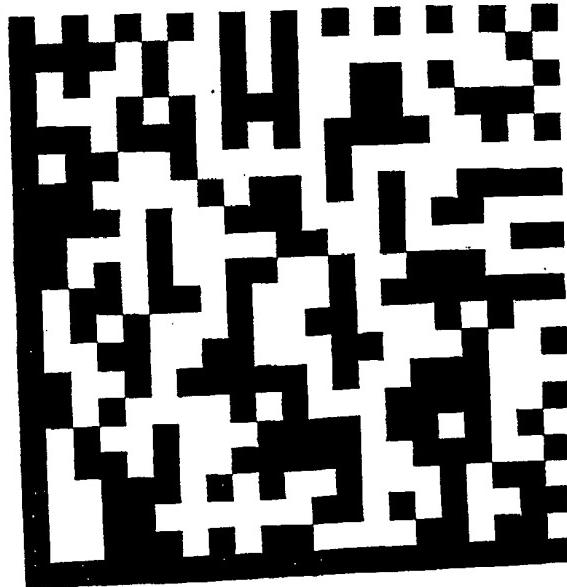
(74) Representative: Stuart, Ian Alexander et al
MEWBURN ELLIS
York House
23 Kingsway
London WC2B 6HP (GB)

(54) Identification and tracking of articles

(57) Machine readable marks are applied to articles, particularly primal cuts of meat, preferably before removal from a carcass. They can thus be monitored during progress and data can be fed back to a central computer which may compute a value for the carcass. A pre-

ferred mark is a 3 x 3 matrix having two columns of coloured dots selected from colours representing 0,2,4,6 and 8; and a modifying column providing binary information indicating that 0 or 1 should be added to the values of adjacent coloured dots.

Fig. 1



EP 0 820 029 A3



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 97 30 5368

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
X	US 5 478 990 A (MONTANARI DANNY J ET AL) 26 December 1995 * abstract * * column 3, line 11 - column 6, line 36; figures 1,6,10 * * column 14, line 56 - column 15, line 45 *	1-3,5,6	G06F17/60 G06K19/06
Y	---	4,7-10	
Y	US 3 940 998 A (SOURBY JOHN C ET AL) 2 March 1976 * column 5, line 27 - line 40; claim 13 * * column 1, line 49 - line 56 *	4	
Y	---		
Y	EP 0 443 959 A (PREDFAULT PAUL) 28 August 1991 * abstract; figures 1,2 *	7	
Y	WO 94 22315 A (DEVRO LTD ;FORREST ALEXANDER (AU); LLOYD WARREN GREGORY (AU); WELS) 13 October 1994 * abstract * * page 2, last line - page 3, paragraph 2 *	8	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
Y	---		G06K G06F
Y	US 5 355 001 A (FUJIMOTO TAKEO ET AL) 11 October 1994 * abstract; figures 1,6 *	9,10	
X	---	14	
X	EP 0 307 335 A (HADJADJ JACQUES) 15 March 1989 * abstract * * column 1, line 49 - line 56 * * column 4, line 12 - line 21 * ---	1,2	
	---	-/-	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	24 March 1999	van der Weiden, A	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone	T : theory or principle underlying the invention		
Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category	E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date		
A : technological background	D : document cited in the application		
O : non-written disclosure	L : document cited for other reasons		
P : intermediate document	& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document		



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 97 30 5368

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)								
X	GB 2 212 310 A (STEP BY STEP CONSULTANTS LIMIT) 19 July 1989 * abstract; figures 1,3 * * page 2, line 21 - page 3, line 4 * * page 4, line 35 - page 5, line 10 * * page 5, line 31 - page 6, line 9 * -----	13									
A	US 5 329 107 A (PRIDDY DENNIS G ET AL) 12 July 1994 * abstract; figure 1 * -----	9,11									
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims											
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Place of search</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Date of completion of the search</td> <td colspan="2" style="padding: 2px;">Examiner</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">THE HAGUE</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">24 March 1999</td> <td colspan="2" style="padding: 2px;">van der Weiden, A</td> </tr> </table>				Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner		THE HAGUE	24 March 1999	van der Weiden, A	
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner									
THE HAGUE	24 March 1999	van der Weiden, A									
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="padding: 2px;">CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</td> <td colspan="2" style="padding: 2px;">T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons B : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="padding: 2px;">X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : Intermediate document</td> <td colspan="2" style="padding: 2px;"></td> </tr> </table>				CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons B : member of the same patent family, corresponding document		X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : Intermediate document			
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons B : member of the same patent family, corresponding document									
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : Intermediate document											

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 97 30 5368

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

24-03-1999

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5478990	A	26-12-1995	AU 8076794 A WO 9510812 A	04-05-1995 20-04-1995
US 3940998	A	02-03-1976	CA 1039497 A DE 2542247 A DK 427375 A GB 1521539 A SE 7510728 A	03-10-1978 08-04-1976 27-03-1976 16-08-1978 29-03-1976
EP 0443959	A	28-08-1991	FR 2658389 A AT 115830 T DE 69106013 D DE 69106013 T ES 2069230 T	23-08-1991 15-01-1995 02-02-1995 22-06-1995 01-05-1995
WO 9422315	A	13-10-1994	AU 676548 B AU 6380594 A	13-03-1997 24-10-1994
US 5355001	A	11-10-1994	JP 5054214 A JP 2841853 B JP 4195695 A CA 2074728 A EP 0513375 A WO 9209972 A	05-03-1993 24-12-1998 15-07-1992 29-05-1992 19-11-1992 11-06-1992
EP 0307335	A	15-03-1989	FR 2620546 A AT 88029 T DE 3880058 A	17-03-1989 15-04-1993 13-05-1993
GB 2212310	A	19-07-1989	NONE	
US 5329107	A	12-07-1994	US 4939354 A US 5053609 A US 5126542 A US 5468953 A US 5464974 A US 5484999 A US 5479004 A US 5473151 A US 5477045 A AU 622173 B AU 3399189 A BE 1002654 A CH 679084 A DE 3914440 A DK 218489 A	03-07-1990 01-10-1991 30-06-1992 21-11-1995 07-11-1995 16-01-1996 26-12-1995 05-12-1995 19-12-1995 02-04-1992 09-11-1989 23-04-1991 13-12-1991 23-11-1989 06-11-1989

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 97 30 5368

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
 The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
 The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

24-03-1999

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5329107 A		FI 892146 A, B, FR 2631182 A FR 2662527 A GB 2218240 A, B GR 89100297 A IE 62337 B JP 2012579 A JP 7152885 A JP 2622235 B JP 7168902 A JP 7175883 A KR 9312137 B MX 167333 B NL 8901129 A NO 180810 B PT 90469 A, B SE 506353 C SE 8901602 A US 5324923 A US 5124536 A	06-11-1989 10-11-1989 29-11-1991 08-11-1989 12-03-1990 25-01-1995 17-01-1990 16-06-1995 18-06-1997 04-07-1995 14-07-1995 24-12-1993 15-03-1993 01-12-1989 24-03-1997 30-11-1989 08-12-1997 06-11-1992 28-06-1994 23-06-1992